

NEW TAXING PLAN PROPOSED BY BYRD

Would Have Commissioners to
Visit and Examine All
Localities.

WHITE FOR SEGREGATION

Debate Before Committee.
Speaker Explains Merits
of Proposition.

Before the House Committee on Finance yesterday morning, Speaker Byrd argued his new proposition for a State Tax Commission. He explained the provisions already outlined in the press.

One new point brought out was that the Speaker does not think the State Corporation Commission assesses railroad property at a sufficiently high figure. When the railroads were requesting the reduction of their passenger rates, he said, they claimed that their lines were worth \$50,000 a mile, and when appearing on the subject of being assessed, they said they were worth only \$10,000. While the railroads claim that their franchise tax should be considered in mitigation, the Speaker said he did not agree to this proposition, as it is a license tax for doing business, and should be paid by merchants and lawyers and physicians pay such taxes.

Wants Segregation.
Hugh A. White did not believe the proposition as proposed would reach the tangible personal property of the State. He insisted that segregation was the feasible plan, and that the counties which would be hurt the worst by it are those where the assessments are now miserably low.

Further, he told the State does not need a Tax Commission to equalize assessments, because there is nothing to equalize save live stock and household furniture until 1915, when the new realty assessment is made. He thought the State should have a commission to get into the valuation of the property of public service corporations, and that no increase be made in the taxes of individuals or in the assessment of their property without a like increase in the valuation or taxes of corporations.

After 1915 the railroads and like corporations will be assessed by a new board, to consist of the Tax Commission, except the Mineral Assessor, the Corporation Assessor, the Governor and the Auditor of Public Accounts.

"If this bill is passed, it cannot fail to reduce the taxes of every citizen who is now paying more than his part of the taxes. It will bring the thirty-eight counties which are now an expense to the State, to a fair valuation, and it will equalize assessments throughout the State. It will open the way to segregation, which is a desirable goal of tax reform. Segregation, as has been demonstrated, is now an impossibility without grave damage to many localities. It will practically bankrupt every city in the State, and will involve a modification of every tax rate in the State, thus creating a condition of utter financial chaos."

Byrd's Analysis.
Speaker Byrd last night issued the following authorized interview on his new tax plan.

"The amended equalization bill, which was considered by the Finance Committee this morning, while not, in my opinion, an ideal bill, is perhaps the largest measure of reform in tax equalization possible at this session. The bill utilizes existing machinery and officials as much as possible, so that, though there are three commissioners, only one additional salary is to be paid."

"The bill provides that the Governor shall appoint one commissioner. The other two are the State Mineral Assessor and a State accountant, who will become a part of the commission. The chief features of the bill are these:

"1. It creates a commission of three members—a body of sufficient size to prevent the centralization of power in the hands of one man—and keeps this commission permanently employed in the examination of values.

"2. It provides that every locality be given a hearing before its valuation can be fixed by assessment, for the commissioners must go to every county and city of the State, and the whole commission must hold annual meetings in each congressional district.

"3. It will give the localities sufficient information on which to fix its valuations. If it desires honestly to assess its property.

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Sixth District Shaped Like Gatling Gun

The pistol-shaped streak in black represents the Sixth Congressional District as it will appear if the redistricting bill, now before the General Assembly, becomes a law. Except at one point, it is one county wide, its total length being estimated at more than 200 miles.



One glance at that part of the accompanying map where the black is blackest will show the exact formation of the Sixth Congressional District if the bill, now pending in the General Assembly, is enacted. Congressman Carter Glass, who ran against Mr. Swanson for the United States Senate last summer, represents the Sixth District, and if the rearrangement is made it is pointed out by those opposing the bill that it may throw the Sixth into Republican control. Four years ago Floyd county was added to the Sixth to save the

Fifth from which it was taken. It is now proposed to take Tazewell, Bland and Giles out of the Ninth and put them in the Sixth. In an interview yesterday Senator Featherston was quoted as saying that this redistricting plan would imperil Democratic chances in the Sixth without materially strengthening Democratic chances in the Ninth. While Mr. Glass's district is to get the three Southwest counties, it is to lose Halifax, and will give the Sixth a shoestring territory, one county wide, except where Montgomery and Floyd come together, and

reaching over a distance of more than 200 miles from end to end.

Close study of the map shows that it is almost exactly in the shape of a revolver. Bedford, Campbell and Charlotte make the handle, the hammer swings back over Roanoke, Montgomery is the cylinder, Floyd the trigger, while Giles, Bland and Tazewell make the barrel. Of course, it isn't a handsome six-shooter, but somebody will immediately suggest that if the present bill is passed the Sixth will be known as the Pistol District of Virginia.

With Captain Curtis, but that this bill did not prevent the latter from taking a drink.

"But it prevents me from giving you a drink," interjected the Richmond man.

"Yes, it prevents you from enticing me into bad habits," returned Mr. Fitzhugh, amid the laughter of the House.

He said it was a bill to protect young men from being ruined by the social habit of treating.

The Curtis motion was lost, and the bill put on its passage and passed by a vote of 59 to 22.

Roll Call Is Forced.

Mr. Love here moved to reconsider the vote by which the House refused to take up the prohibition bill. He said some members did not understand it. The fact was that the parliamentary point had occurred to the advocates of the measure. The motion to reconsider was carried by 35 to 33, and a motion to take the bill up was lost by 35 to 43.

Mr. Jordan then forced a roll call exhorting members to sustain the call saying here was a reason for it.

The roll call resulted:

Ayes—Adams, Balm, Baker, of Chesapeake, Bargamin, Bell, Borden, Bowman, Brewer, Brown, of Westmoreland; Buck, Chalkley, Coleman, of Shenandoah; Earman, Evans, Farnough, Fulton, Ivey, Jennings, Jordan, Kent, Love, Lunsford, Martin, Massie, McCreze, More, Moseley, Mustard, Norris, Page, Radford, Raw, Robertson, Rolston, Row, Stephenson, of Bath; Stephenson, of James City; Stratton, Tate, Thompson, of Walton; Weaver, of Albemarle; Willert, Williams, Wiesner and the Speaker—41.

Noes—Banks, Browning, Burt, Christian, Coleman, of Norfolk; Cox, Creamer, Curtis, Daniel, Gilliam, Grant, Harwood, Houston, Howerton, Kemper, Land, Milled, Moncure, Evans, Parker, Peck, Peyton, Richardson, Roberts, of Mecklenburg; Suthphin, Tabb, Templeton, Tiffany, Uitz, Watts Webb, White, of Rockbridge, and Wise—33.

Pair—Mr. Smith with Mr. Montague.

Bills Are Agreed To.

Because of the continued absence of Mr. Flanagan at the bedside of a member of his family, John J. Williams called up Senate bill No. 5 out of its order, the constitutional readings were dispensed with, and the bill passed. It authorizes the Council of the city of Radford to issue bonds for school purposes.

The following House bills were read the third time, but on their final passage, and passed:

Changing the name of the town of Shenandoah, Rockingham county, to Grottoes.

Changing the time of holding elections in the town of Branchville, Southampton county.

Amending the charter of the city of Alexandria.

Authorizing the county of Norfolk to borrow \$250,000 for road improvements.

Permitting the catching of fish by gill nets or seines in the waters of the county of Rockbridge.

Repealing an act ceding to the United States exclusive jurisdiction over lands owned by it in this State.

Authorizing and directing the working of roads in Rockbridge county by contract at the State Farm.

Fixing the strength of bridges in Franklin county.

Amending the road law of Amherst county.

Paying to the Richmond Press the balance due for printing the index to enrolled bills.

Paying to Westmoreland, Meiser & Smith the balance for binding the index.

Putting the sheriff of the city of Richmond on a salary basis in lieu of fee.

Allowing the appointment of additional game wardens in magisterial districts on application of five resident freeholders.

Prohibiting the use of gill nets or seines in the waters of the county of Albemarle.

Amending the law of the county of Albemarle.

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How About It?

Do you enjoy a weird story—one that carries you out in the cold of a winter night—in the pursuit of a strange phantom? Try

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And if you want to glimpse into a life story—see a little life shipwrecked, and be a mute witness of a tragedy of man and woman love, you must read those blood-warming

"Leaves from a Nurse's Diary,"

By LEONIE WOODWARD

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On his twenty-first birthday he was setting type, now he is the greatest of living American novelists. Who he is and how he did it, is the subject of an interesting article. Hy Gage has made some funny cartoons to go with it. All in

The Times-Dispatch

Illustrated Magazine Next Sunday

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And why not? Yet some people act as if a medicine could take the place of a doctor! The best medicine in the world cannot do this. Have a family doctor, consult him frequently. If we did not believe doctors endorsed Ayer's Cherry Pectoral for coughs and colds, we would not offer it to you.

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PURE ICE CREAM

Sacrificing 300 pieces Furniture, odds and ends.

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HOUSE

Judge Martin Williams, from the Committee on Rules, offered a resolution at the beginning of the House session yesterday that beginning next week the chair shall be vacated at 1 o'clock each day to be resumed at 2 o'clock. In view of these afternoon sessions, committee are requested to arrange their hearings following the expiration of the time for the introduction of bills, so as not to conflict with the sessions. The resolution was agreed to.

Another resolution of inquiry, this time into the affairs of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, to ascertain its connection, if any, with the telegraph and electric lines, was offered by Mr. Fitzhugh. Mr. Suthphin, but went to the Committee on General Laws.

The House voted to begin afternoon sessions next Monday, the chair to be vacated at 1 o'clock each day to be resumed at 2 o'clock.

Mr. Oliver moved to refer the resolution to a committee of inquiry, composed of two members from the House and one from the Senate, to investigate and report why it is that the average person in the State is so ignorant of the State Epileptic Colony, an one-third greater than in the hospitals for the insane.

Mr. Jennings did not object to the inquiry, but said it was not equitable to compare the cost in an institution of the patients with one of \$1200.

Mr. Stratton said he was authorized to say that the management of the colony not only would not oppose this inquiry, but would assist it.

Not objecting, Dr. H. U. Stephenson said that this was a matter which the Committee on Finance already had in hand.

Mr. Oliver moved to refer the resolution to the Committee on Asylums and Prisons, but this was lost by the close vote of 51 to 52. The resolution was then adopted.

Fixing the Rules.
Mr. Thompson offered a resolution to so amend rule 22 of the House that when a motion has been made and carried on the third successive days to take up a bill out of its order, and it has each time received a majority but not the necessary two-thirds, it shall thereafter be proper to take the matter up on a majority vote. This was adopted by a vote of 51 to 52.

The Weaver resolution providing for an inquiry into the business management of all State institutions (not departments) by a committee of three members, was reported from the Finance Committee. The Times-Dispatch yesterday stated that this would be done. The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Suthphin offered a resolution providing for an investigation of the affairs of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, its entrance less to the tomb of Washington, its surplus, its officers and employees and their salaries, and what contracts it has with any electric railroad or steamboat company.

Public Wants Inquiry.
Speaking to his resolution, Mr. Suthphin set forth some of the matters already presented to the Committee on Public Property. He was informed, he said, that an admission fee of 25 cents is charged, and that there is some connection with the company operating the only boat which is allowed to land at Mount Vernon. A demand for an investigation had come from all over the United States. The management had said when it had \$50,000 surplus it would abandon the fee, but did not do so.

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Open daily from 10 A. M. to 1 P. M.
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SENATE

The event of the day in the Senate was the reduction by Senators Walker, Mapp, Saunders and West jointly of a bill providing for the calling and holding of an election upon the question of prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. The bill, which was introduced by the Governor, was passed by a vote of 19 to 17.

Upon motion of Senator Follick, the Senate gave its attention yesterday exclusively to the large number of uncontested bills which gorged the calendar. Under this second reading, were introduced the bill to amend the act enabling act to secure immediate consideration in the House is believed to be responsible for the introduction of its replica in the Senate. It was referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Another House resolution asked the concurrence of the Senate in the appointment of a joint committee of three, two from the House and one from the Senate, to examine into the administration of the epileptic colony in Amherst county, and report thereon to the next General Assembly.

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the fact that the convention will meet in Philadelphia February 20.

Senator Rogers moved that his bill authorizing the county of Culpeper to hold an election on the question of borrowing money for the improvement of roads in Cataula magisterial district, in that county, be taken out of its order and passed. The constitutionality of the bill was not questioned, and the bill was passed.

To Investigate Institutions.
A joint resolution was reported from the House and adopted providing for the appointment of a joint committee composed of two members and one Senator to investigate all institutions now asking for appropriations to find out if these institutions are economically administered, and to report their findings to the next General Assembly.

The committee is to draw no pay for its services other than a sum sufficient for its expenses.

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tion, stated that the administration of the epileptic colony was as efficient and economical as that of the other institutions, and that the apparent higher cost of upkeep per capita was due to the fact that it had fewer inmates at present, in proportion to its fixed equipment, than the institutions with which it was compared. They saw no need for an investigating committee and looked upon it as a needless expense. The Senate voted to refer the resolution to the Committee on Public Institutions.

Washington Junket Cost \$245.
A joint resolution was reported from the House authorizing the issuing of warrants in favor of a local bank amounting to \$245, for advancing the expenses of the joint committees appointed to inform Senators Swanson and Martin of their election. The expense was equally divided between the House and the Senate. Upon motion the resolution was unanimously adopted.

After advancing a large number of Senate and House bills the Senate adjourned at 2:15.

House Bills Engrossed.
The following House bills were advanced from their second reading and ordered engrossed:

To amend the Code of Virginia in relation to the approval of title to real estate for public uses.

To require the licensing and adequate inspection and supervision of persons and corporations conducting maternity hospitals and lying-in asylums.

To extend the time for collecting taxes accounted for by the city and county treasurer, and not returned delinquent.

To amend the law regarding corporations with reference to the decrease of outstanding capital stock.

To protect fish in the waters of Roanoke city, Roanoke and Montgomery counties.

To amend the act prohibiting the killing of fish in Clinch River, in the county of Russell, with dynamite or other explosives and poisons.

To give courts of equity jurisdiction to remove clouds from title to real estate where the complainant is not in possession, or where the complainant has the equitable right to the legal title.

To amend an act approved February 21, 1908, providing for a road law for Spotsylvania county.

To amend the law providing for the opening and working of roads, and the erection and maintenance of bridges in the county of Culpeper.

To authorize the town of Eastville, Northampton county, to issue bonds to borrow money for the purpose of paying the balance due for completing the work of macadamizing the roads or streets through that town.

To amend the charter of the city of Roanoke.

To amend the act providing for the issuing of county bonds for permanent road or bridge improvement in the magisterial districts of the counties of the State.

To authorize the town of Cape Charles, Northampton county, to issue bonds to borrow money for the purpose of erecting and operating

a plant for the manufacture, distribution and sale of electricity.

To authorize the town of Cape Charles, Northampton county, to borrow money for the purpose of funding or redeeming certain outstanding bonds, maturing May 1916, and to extend and improve the water or sewer systems of the said town.

Senate Bills Advanced.
The following Senate bills were advanced from their first to their second readings:

To provide how the present existing fence law in any county or magisterial district, other than those which have no fence law, may be changed by the board of supervisors of such county.

To amend the act providing the mode of ascertainment of damages in favor of abutting owners, where any city or town shall cause injury to property by reason of the grading of any street belonging to such city or town, and to give any assessment so made against the city or town the effect of a judgment.

To amend the Code in relation to special commissions of sale.

To provide how further proceedings are to be had on a judgment of a justice of the peace, or of the mayor of a corporation, from which an appeal has been allowed when the appeal is dismissed.

To amend and re-enact section 1698 of the Code.

To provide for the creation of a bureau of vital statistics.